Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

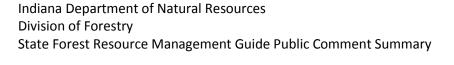
SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan Monroe State Forest Compartment 4 Tract 6 30 Day Comment Period Ending: 5/31/2016 Comments Received: 2

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning this draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

Summary of Comments Division of Forestry Response Concern of potential impact to interior species, Indiana and Northern long Habitats, communities and species are considered as part eared bat and other RTE species. Recommends detailed environmental of the management planning process. Along with field inventory of birds, wildlife and plants be conducted/included in DRMG. observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to Concern on impacts to soil and water resources and effective check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife implementation and monitoring of BMPs. Suggests riparian areas be species on or near the management unit. No HCVF or old avoided or buffered during harvests Concerns about long term forest stainability and harvest levels on State growth forests were noted on this tract. Forests. Further information on direct and indirect impacts on Contends the removal of Ash through the prescribed sanitation harvest will species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest not slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. Suggests harvest of Ash may Environmental Assessment. reduce ash genetic diversity important to long term survival of the species. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests EA.pdf Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the DRMG does not evaluate area potential for High Conservation Value or old US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take forest designation. impacts to the Indiana bat and other listed species. Concern potential spread of invasive species as result of management Best management practices will be implemented and activity. Supports efforts to control invasives (by manual methods only). monitored to address the soil erosion and sedimentation Concern DRMG does not address impacts on climate change and carbon concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and included sequestration. Suggests DoF put in place evaluation standards to consider in timber sales contracts. DoF will respond to reported BMP the cumulative impacts of all state and federal forest management projects departures. BMP guidance can be found at: across the state on climate change. http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-Opposes the harvest prescription within the RMG due to potential impacts 2005 Forestry BMP Field Guide.pdf to plants, animals, habitat and ecological services. Supports the retention of Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion snags and other habitat features.

board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State



Forests are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-state-Forest-CFI-Report 2010 2014.pdf

- Invasive species presence and control needs will be monitored as part of normal operations. A variety of management measures are considered in an overall integrated pest control strategy, including manual controls, defensive plantings and treatments with approved herbicides. Strictly manual measures are seldom effective control strategies by themselves.
- EAB is widespread throughout Indiana, including heavy presence in Monroe, Brown, Morgan and surrounding counties. http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/5349.htm.
 Recruiting ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of the prescribed treatment. While the prescription will remove many infected Ash trees it will not slow the spread of EAB. The prescription will not and is unable to remove all Ash trees.
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles, promotes habitat diversity and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.